Fredric R. Harris (India) on the project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of Netherland offered financial assistance for the project; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken on the project report?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of Netherlands funded a Study called "Locational Advantage Study-Cochin Versue Tuticorin", conducted by M/s. Fredric R. Harris. The Final Report has been received by the Government.

(d) Cochin and Tuticorin Ports have been requested to undertake feasibility studies for construction of modern container terminals, which can also be used as transhipment ports.

Unloading and packaging terminal at Cochin Port

2459. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any proposal from the Cochin Port for setting up of unloading and packaging terminal;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether it is a fact that the project has not been approved despite the fact that the Land Allotment Committee chaired by the Surface Transport Secretary had cleared it on the 6th March, 1996; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and by when it is proposed to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cochin Port Trust have forwarded two proposals for setting up of Cement Unloading and Packaging Terminals on the basis of offers received in response to Press Advertisement.

(c) and (d) The Project has been turned down in view of environmental consideration and objections from the State Government.

Setting up of cement unloading terminal by Cochin Port Trust

2460. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cochin Port Trust invited tenders for setting up of Cement unloading terminal on 18th November, 1994 and if so, the details of the proposals received and recommended by the Port for approval to Government:

(b) whether the said proposal was approved by the land Allotment committee chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport and if so, how many times; and

(c) whether the proposal was also approved by him but withdrawn subsequently and if so, the reasons therefor and by when it is to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Four offers were received in response to Press Advertisement.

(b) Yes, Sir. The proposal was cleared by the Internal Committee of the Ministry two times.

(c) Yes, Sir. The proposal was approved earlier but the decision was withheld in view of certain Court cases field against the proposal highlighting the pollution angle and in view of the withholding of the pollution clearance earlier given by the State Pollution Control Board. The Industries Department of the State Government has also opposed the proposal.

The proposal has been finally turned down in view of the above factors.